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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, February 22, 1995)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Our prayer this morning will be offered by a guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Paul Lavin, offered the following prayer:

In Psalm 51 (verses 1-3) we read:
Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

Let us pray:

Almighty Father, as so many of the Members of this Senate join millions of our fellow citizens in accepting ashes as a public sign of our desire to understand more deeply the meaning of salvation and to reflect that salvation in the way we live, help each of us to recognize Your gifts to us and help us to use those gifts for the good of our families, for the good of this Senate, for our fellow citizens, and for all Your people. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERMITTING USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 20, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 20) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to commemorate the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for House Concurrent Resolution 20, which would permit the use of the Capitol rotunda to commemorate the Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust.

It has now been more than 50 years since Adolf Hitler mounted his systematic effort to destroy the Jewish people. Today, many survivors of the Holocaust are aging or have died. Soon, they will no longer be able to share their first-hand accounts of Hitler's savagery.

Now more than ever, we must redouble our efforts to remember the terror of the Third Reich, and to teach our children important lessons about the need for tolerance and the dangers of intimidation.

The Days of Remembrance is a week-long commemoration of the Holocaust. On April 27, an international day of commemoration, there will be a cere-

mony on the Capitol rotunda consisting of speeches, readings, and musical presentations, to honor and remember the 6 million innocent victims of the Holocaust. As a humane and tolerant society, we must stamp on our souls the haunting memories of these victims: men and women, young and old, who were tortured and killed not because of something they did, but simply because of who they were.

Mr. President, we are all familiar with the adage that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

Our duty to those who died on the trains, in the fields and in the gas chambers, is to make sure that their story is told from generation to generation. We must study and reflect on the atrocities of the Nazis, in order to make sure that this dark chapter of history is never repeated.

It is a painful study, Mr. President, but it is the only way we can sanctify the memory of the victims and make sure that their suffering is never forgotten.

Mr. President, there is often a temptation to obscure the dark passages to humanity, but we know that we cannot be true to history unless we reveal them. The Days of Remembrance are a time for us to undergo this painful reflection and I laud my colleagues for passing this important resolution.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider the vote be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 20) was agreed to.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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